

ending on Page 6, line 2:

*b2*

In the illustrated embodiment trailing edge portion 212 is proximate to inner side portion 130 and the predicted tipped interface on the trailing edge portion 210 is proximate to the outer side portion 132 of the slider. As previously described, rotation of discs 104 creates an air flow path illustrated by arrow 138 in FIG. 2 including a tangential flow component between the inner and outer side portions 130, 132 of the slider. Thus in the illustrated embodiment, the predicted tipped interface 204-1 is positioned proximate to the outer side portion 132 of the slider 200-1 in alignment with the flow direction 138 imposed by rotation of the discs so that windage of the rotating disc tips the slider toward the predicted tipped interface 204-1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on Page 6, line 19 and ending on Page 7, line 5:

*b3*

As shown, rails 230, 232 include elevated SLIPs 250, 252, 254. SLIPs 250, 252, 254 extend from raised surfaces of bearing rails 230, 232 to provide an elevated SLIP interface structure which extends above bearing surfaces of the slider 200-2 for contact interface. SLIPs 250, 252, 254 are formed on leading edge portions 206, 208 of the slider 200-2 and trailing edge portion 212 to cooperatively form a dynamically imbalanced SLIP interface. SLIPs 250, 252 on leading edge portions 206, 208 are dynamically balanced between opposed side portions of the slider.

SLIP 254 at trailing edge portion 212 is dynamically unbalanced relative to trailing edge portion 210 to form a predicted tipped interface at trailing edge portion 210. Trailing edge portion 210 includes a bearing surface interface 256 at the predicted tipped position. In the embodiment shown, the dynamically imbalanced SLIP 254 is formed on the inner portion 130 of the slider and the bearing surface interface 256 is formed on the outer portion 132 to induce tipping of the slider in the

*B* direction of air flow between the inner and outer side portions of the slider.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on Page 7, line 5 and ending on Page 7, line 16 as follows:

*BX* As illustrated in FIG. 6, the bearing surface interface 256 has a textured or roughened surface 258 to provide a desired roughness average Ra for stiction control. The textured or roughened surface 258 is fabricated by known manufacturing techniques on a portion of the raised bearing surface of trailing edge portion 210. The textured or roughened surface 258 of the bearing surface interface 256 is a small portion of the total area of the raised bearing surface of the slider and/or rail 232 and thus does not significantly affect the aerodynamics of the raised air bearing for read-write operations. The textured or roughened surface 258 can have random texture or a patterned texture. FIGS. 7-8 illustrate an embodiment of a patterned texture. Patterned texture includes a plurality of surface depressions 260 formed in the raised bearing surface 262 in a selected or predicted pattern by photolithography or laser techniques.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on Page 8, line 13 and ending on Page 8, line 21 as follows:

*B* In the illustrated embodiment, leading edge portions 206, 208 include a plurality of elevated SLIPs 304-1, 304-2, 304-3, 306-1, 306-2, 306-3 formed on raised tier 296 of rails 290, 292.

*B* SLIPs 304-1, 304-2, 304-3, 306-1, 306-2, 306-3 are dynamically balanced between opposed leading edge portions 206, 208 of the slider. Trailing edge portion 212 includes an elevated SLIP interface structure having interface portions 308-1, 308-2 formed on the U-shaped ledge 300. Interface portions 308-1, 308-2 on trailing edge portion 212 are dynamically imbalanced relative to

*b5*  
trailing edge portion 210 to form a bearing surface interface 310 at a predicted tipped position proximate to the trailing edge portion 210 as shown in FIG. 10.

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*b6*  
Please amend the paragraph beginning on Page 8, line 23 and ending on Page 9, line 3:

In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 10 and 13, elevated interface portions 308-1, 308-2 are formed of a strip 312 deposited between opposed sides of rail 290. Portions of deposited strip 312 on legs 314, 316 of U-shaped ledge 300 form multiple SLIPs 308-1, 308-2 to form a dynamically imbalanced SLIP interface with predicted tipped bearing surface interface 310 as shown in FIG. 10. A tip portion of the stepped tier 298 at the tipped bearing surface interface 310 is textured as illustrated schematically to form a roughened tribological bearing surface for stiction control for contact starts and stops. The textured surface area at the tipped interface 310 is relatively small in comparison to the elevated bearing surface area so that the roughened surface portion does not significantly interfere with dynamics of the air bearing.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9-10 as follows:

*Subj*  
*b7*  
9. (Amended) A slider comprising:  
a slider body having a bearing surface; and  
dynamically imbalanced SLIP interface means for providing a  
predicted tipped interface for supporting the slider  
for contact starts and stops.

10. (Amended) A disc drive comprising:  
a base chassis;